



WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE A. F. of L., BY INSTRUCTION OF ITS LOUISIANA CONVENTION, DIRECTED THE OFFICERS AT HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH A WEEKLY NEWS LETTER, FREE OF COST, TO ALL OFFICIAL LABOR PUBLICATIONS.

Containing a brief summary of important matters, affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will further the development and progress of the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
HEADQUARTERS

801-809 G ST. N. W., WASHINGTON, D. C.

FRANK MORRISON, SECRETARY SAMUEL GOMPERS, PRESIDENT

No. 23.

FEDERATION'S CONTENTION UPHOLD

Circuit Court Decides that Judge Collins' Court Had No Jurisdiction In Extradition Cases.

Washington, Sept. 9.—The following telegram from Attorney Seyfried, the legal representative of the A. F. of L. at Indianapolis, was received at headquarters Sept. 7: "Circuit Court today decided that City Court (Judge Collins) has no jurisdiction in extradition cases."

Judge James A. Collins of the police court, who turned over John J. McNamara to the California authorities has contended that he had jurisdiction in extradition proceedings. The decision just handed down by the Circuit Court in the case of one Rochelle, who was wanted in Toledo, shows that Judge Collins exceeded his authority.

In July Mayor Shank of Indianapolis had a conference with Chief of Police Hyland, in which he expressed a doubt as to whether the police court was a court of proper jurisdiction to take prisoners involved in extradition proceedings. He said then: "Not being a lawyer, of course I do not know whether Judge Collins has jurisdiction in such cases, or not. That I suppose will be decided in September by Judge Remster."

The decision as handed down by the Circuit Court upholds the contentions of the A. F. of L. in the kidnapping of J. J. McNamara.

WILL CONTEST TAYLOR SYSTEM

Washington, Sept. 9.—Machinists employed in the Navy Yard at Washington have taken a decided stand against the introduction of the Taylor System. The men say it is being introduced gradually and that they are determined to resist further encroachments. Columbia Lodge, International Association of Machinists, with a membership of 1,400, has appointed a committee to wait on the authorities at the Navy Yard and inform them that its members are opposed to the System and will stand out against it. It has called for action on the part of the Metal Trades Department, of the A. F. of L., and has arranged for a joint mass meeting of all unions with members employed in the yard.

Similar action has been taken by the men employed in the Charlestown Navy Yard, the Philadelphia Navy Yard, the Watertown Arsenal and other Government works.

Taylor System Predominantly Autocratic, Dictatorial, Feudal, Bureaucratic and Managerial.

Washington, Sept. 9.—Under the caption "Labor Unions and Scientific Management", the Boston Common characterizes the Taylor System thus:

"Why the labor unions are so strongly denouncing Scientific Management, why, for instance the International Convention of Brass and Silver Workers' Unions in Boston last week passed resolutions declaring it to be 'the most barbarous and oppressive system for driving workers yet invented by the exploiters of labor,' has never been as well stated as in the following paragraph by George Willis Cooke:

"The Taylor system in itself is thoroughly cooperative, from first to last. As it is worked out by Taylor it is autocratic co-operation, co-operation dominated by owners and managers for ends of profits. * * It wholly omits the democratic element in co-operation; and it becomes, as worked out by Taylor, predominantly autocratic, dictatorial, feudal, and managerial. It is bureaucratic in the highest degree, and is a series of systems within systems, of long successions of managers and supervisors, while every man works under dictation, except the owner at the top."

"The Taylor system at times carries industrial paternalism to a laughable extreme. We find, for example, in Taylor's book an instance in which the application of scientific management increased the employer's profit from one worker's output from \$1 to \$3.60; but according to scientific principles, lest the worker grow unruly and dissipated, his wages must not be increased more than from \$1.15 to \$1.85.

"Mr. Taylor and his associates have done mankind an inestimable service by their discovery. But a greater problem is yet to be solved. How is scientific management to be made democratic?"

BRITISH TRADES UNION CONGRESS

Newcastle, Eng., Sept. 9.—The annual meeting of the Trades Union Congress is being held here with 554 delegates present representing 1,667,000 members.

One of the principal propositions being considered is the fusion of the various organizations into one grand national federation to be called the Labor Congress, with the object of furthering the solidarity of labor and more speedily introducing improvements in the labor world.

Messrs. MacFarlane and Tobin are in attendance as delegates representing the American Federation of Labor.

A McNAMARA PARADE

Washington, Sept. 9.—Organized labor in Philadelphia has decided to hold a McNamara demonstration on Oct. 12, the date on which the trial of John J. McNamara is expected to begin.

There was no Labor Day parade, the unions deciding to postpone it until the latter date, when the hosts of labor will parade the streets of the "City of Brotherly Love" as a protest against the un-American act of kidnapping the McNamara brothers.

Carpenters at Prince Albert, Sask. have succeeded in reducing their hours of labor from 10 to 9 a day. They also secured an increase in wages of 5¢ an hour.

HITS SCORE SPOT

Labor Day Address of Frank Morrison at Binghamton, N. Y. Rouses Ire Of
New York Times.

Washington, Sept. 9.—Secretary Frank Morrison of the A. F. of L. and the New York Times are not in unison on the question of the policy of the trusts. Commenting editorially on his Labor Day address, the Times has this to say: "Yesterday Mr. Frank Morrison, the Secretary of the American Federation of Labor, made a spirited address at the celebration of Labor Day at Binghamton. It was a passionate plea for all workmen to combine in aid of the unions because the employers are, he asserted, combining to break up the unions by every available means, fair or foul.

"It may not unjustly be suggested that Mr. Morrison naturally magnifies the importance of the organization by which he is employed and that the growth of its numbers is not to him a matter of disinterested concern. But the plea he makes is strictly within his province so long as he presents his case with due regard to facts. But surely intelligent workmen will not be attracted by Mr. Morrison's attack upon the motives of those employers who have sought to secure for their men a share in the ownership and in the profits of their business. The Secretary of the Federation says:

'The chief question of interest to the trusts today is how they can prevent their employees from becoming members of unions, thus minimizing the possibility of a demand being made upon them for an increase in wages or shorter hours of labor. The trusts are employing the ablest men that money can secure to perfect plans to more effectively bind the workers to the industry. One of the most plausible and at the same time the most vicious system that the representatives of great corporations are trying to fasten upon the workers at the present time is the so-called dividend scheme, a scheme in which the employees cannot make a suggestion either as to wages, hours or share of the profit. This scheme of the trusts to hold their employees is particularly interesting when it is known that a roll call of the corporations that favor the system will reveal the facts that they are the corporations and trusts that have absolutely refused to permit their employees to organize, aye, more, they have demonstrated their willingness to expend millions of dollars to keep their employees as helpless to change the condition under which they labor as the slaves were helpless to do other than the bidding of their masters.'

"The reference here is to the plan of the United States Steel Corporation. It is not a correct statement of that plan, and it ignores the very important fact that other organizations in various parts of the country are framing plans to which this criticism cannot remotely apply. Take, for example, the striking report of the committee of the National organization of the electric interests. This plan not only embraced participation by employees in the ownership and profits of the business, but included the principle of insurance against illness, accident, and old age at the sole expense of the employers and as a natural element in the cost of carrying on their business to the best advantage. Undoubtedly the employers look on this plan from a selfish point of view. They expect that under it they will get in the shape of efficiency and fidelity ample return for their outlay. But we do not see that this can be an objection to honest and sensible workmen. Workmen of that stamp are neither beggars nor sneak thieves. They do not wish to get wages or other advantages that they have not fairly earned. Mr. Morrison does the class whom he assumes to represent a gross disservice when he assails plans of this nature. It is quite possible that carried out in good faith on the one side and the other, schemes of this sort would tend to narrow the field of profitable occupation for professional agitators. We do not charge that that accounts for Mr. Morrison's opposition to them, but if we did it would be no more unfair to him than he is to the employers who are trying to work out a plan of harmony between themselves and their men.

Italian Union Men and Women House and Feed Children and Wives of Elba Strikers.

Rome, Italy, Sept. 9.—Imbued with the spirit that made Rome the mistress of the world striking workers at Elba are determined to win or perish in the battle they are now waging against their employers.

The sight of starving women and children has often unnerved men fighting for industrial emancipation, and the organized workers of Italy are determined that the men of Elba will not have to face such an ordeal. They have made plans to take the women and children, especially the children, from the strike district and leave the men untrammelled in their battle to abolish the horrible conditions under which they have been forced to labor.

Many of the dependents of the strikers have been already conveyed to other districts to be cared for by unionists and it was a memorable day in Rome when thousands of union men and women gathered at the railroad station to receive a group of children who had been consigned to their care. Strong men scouted and wept when the little ones arrived. The women gathered them into their arms and they were carried away amidst cheers to be housed and fed and comforted until their fathers had gained the victory that would ensure comfortable homes and sufficient food and raiment for them.

Italian unionism is marching on. The members of the unions are showing a spirit of self sacrifice that will carry their movement to victory.

HEAVY STRIKE LOSSES

Washington, Sept. 9.—Commenting on the losses sustained by the railroads in the recent strike in England, Reynolds' Newspaper says:

"Those who were inclined to pooh-pooh the consequences of even a partial suspension of work on the railways should have their eyes opened by last week's traffic returns. A more dismal record it would be hard to conceive. The receipts of the North-Western show a shrinkage of 101,000 pounds, and those of the Great Western one of 91,000 pounds, while the Midland, the Lancashire and Yorkshire, and the North-Eastern, all sustained losses of about 50,000 pounds each. The combined declines of ten important English trade lines exceeded 400,000 pounds, representing a loss of say half a million of the expansion which would have occurred under normal conditions. The passenger lines escaped much more lightly, the aggregate falling off in the receipts of half a dozen companies being only 36,000 pounds. We note that even the South-Western, despite the boasted "loyalty" of its staff, was among the sufferers. When they examine last week's traffic returns railway shareholders, we have not the least doubt, will thank their stars that even at the eleventh hour the representatives of the companies consented to come down from their high horse and meet the men's leaders."

STRIKE IN HAVANA

Havana, Sept. 9.—3,500 drivers, carters, draymen and laborers employed on the Havana sewer improvement are on strike, and all work is suspended.

Bakers, stevedores, lighterman and icemen are also on strike.

A RECORD BREAKING CROWD

President Gompers Addresses Twenty Thousand Union Men and Their Friends in San Francisco.

Washington, Sept. 9.—September 4 was a red letter day in the history of the labor movement of San Francisco. Tens of thousands of unionists marched through the streets and 20,000 people gathered at Shell Mound Park, Alameda, and listened to a stirring address by President Gompers.

President Gompers began his present campaign in Denver, Colo., has been enthusiastically received and has addressed monster gatherings in Denver, Salt Lake City, Pocatello, Butte, Missoula, Spokane, Seattle, Vancouver, Tacoma, Portland, San Francisco, San Jose, Santa Cruz and Oakland.

Speaking in Missoula to a large gathering, President Gompers had this to say on the kidnapping of the McNamara brothers:

"A few months ago in Los Angeles an explosion occurred. No one knows now how that explosion occurred. I will not plead extenuating circumstances for a man that could be guilty of such an awful deed, such sacrifice of human life. A short time ago, purely as a matter of greed, they burned men and women in New York. Thousands of your fellow men are killed annually. None believe in retaliation, they say that, but you can't expect that the laboring man would be deaf to one and have all sympathy for the other. Before the sound of the explosion had died away, the enemies of labor said we had committed a great crime. The American Bridge Company, part of the United States Steel Corporation, the merchants and manufacturers of Los Angeles, with great corporate power, concentrated in trying to deal labor unions the death blow. They went into Indianapolis and Chicago and bodily stole two men away from their homes and from their states. Kidnapping is a euphonious term applied to the taking of these men. Without giving them a chance to see a fellow citizen or lawyer; without having an opportunity to defend themselves, they say that they had the right to abduct them from the state in which they lived. They were dragged thousands of miles across the continent and thrown into jail on charges of the gravest nature. Detective Burns says that detectives are the greatest set of criminals and I think the estimate he placed on the other detectives can well be placed on him. If these men were sure that the evidence against the McNamara boys was conclusive, would they not have been given an opportunity of being heard in the courts of Indiana and Illinois? We are trying to prevent for all time to come the repetition of such man-stealing methods. You don't think that anyone would try to steal Rockefeller or Gould. We are engaged in this conflict, not alone to provide ample defense for the McNamara boys, but we will secure, if possible, the conviction of those who engaged in the man-stealing."

A PROFITABLE CITY DEPARTMENT

Manchester, Eng., Sept. 9.—The municipal gas department of this city reports a net profit of £700,000 last year. The city council has resolved to reduce the price to consumers from 55 to 49 cents for 1,000 cubic feet. The gas department has paid over to the city fund \$226,000 which will reduce taxation by one-half.

The Stationary Firemen's Union at Boston, Mass. has secured for its members an increase in wages of 45 cents a day.

EMPLOYERS WANT CLOSED SHOP

Try to Use Union as a Vehicle to Drive Independent Employers into Marble Industry Employers Association.

Washington, Sept. 9.—The strike committee of the International Association of Marble Workers in New York has sent out a statement to the builders and architects of that city declaring that the present trouble is the result of a plan on the part of the Employers' Association to induce the unions to force all independent employers into the employers' association.

The committee claims to be in a position to prove that for some time past the employers have been threatening reductions in wages, the establishment of open shops and other undesirable conditions if the union would not accept the terms of the agreement of 1903. The agreement in question stipulated that members of the union should not work for any employer who was not a member of the Marble Industry Employers' Association.

It states further that in March, 1911, the union was ordered to withdraw its members from the shops of all employers doing business in Greater New York, who were not members of the employers' association, and that when the union refused to do so the employers' association refused to consider an increased wage scale until the union complied with its demands.

The agents of the employers have been scouring Europe in an effort to secure workers to take the places of the strikers, but the officials of the union say they have been unsuccessful and that the strike will soon terminate in a victory for organized labor.

HOSICK SNEAKED BACK

Washington, Sept. 9.—Detective Hosick, who assisted Burns in kidnapping John J. McNamara is back in Indianapolis. He did not come back in chains, but travelled in a luxurious train, and enjoyed every comfort during his journey from Los Angeles to the scene of his crime.

When Governor Johnson of California honored the requisition, Attorney Seyfried, representing the A. F. of L., sent for a legal officer to bring the kidnapper back. When the officer appeared Hosick had disappeared. Later he appeared in Indianapolis alone and immediately went to the office of Attorney Spann, who represents Burns and Hosick in that city. Accompanied by the attorney he went to the court house, where an effort was made to have the bonds reduced from \$10,000 to \$5,000. The effort failed and the \$10,000 bond had to be put up.

Hosick is at liberty, but as the maximum penalty for kidnapping in Indiana is 14 years, the kidnapper has lost much of the arrogance he displayed on the occasion of his last visit to Indianapolis.

SEAMEN WIN UNION SHOP CONDITIONS

Washington, Sept. 9.—Representatives of the Atlantic Coast Seamen's Union reported at the meeting of the Central Federated Union of New York that the union shop is an established institution along the river front of that city. The New York and Porto Rico Steamship Company is the only line that has not conceded the demands of the seamen, and travel on that line is said to be exceedingly dangerous on account of the incompetent crews that are manning the vessels.

KIRBY PLAYS CIVIC FEDERATION

President of the National Association of Manufacturers Declares That the Federation Should Get a Divorce.

Washington, Sept. 9.--Kirby is on the rampage again. In his usual wild manner he wallops the Civic Federation and pays it the following compliment: "The National Civic Federation, through its affiliation with the American Federation of Labor, has become a menace to free American Industrialism."

Continuing his benediction he has this to say: "In the July, 1911, issue of the 'National Civic Federation Review,' an attempt has been made to defend the attitude of the National Civic Federation on the labor question. It has been charged, and it is here charged, that the National Civic Federation, through the cunning manipulation of its 'inner circle,' has been, and is now used, as an annex to the American Federation of Labor; that its affiliation with the latter is one of thorough sympathy and specious insidious cooperation, and that the 'core' of the National Civic Federation, and the executive bone of the American Federation of Labor, are so near akin as to amount to but little - if anything - less than a distinction without a difference so far as the labor policies of the two organizations are concerned."

After many kind and benevolent compliments Mr. Kirby tenders the following advice: "Let the Civic Federation divorce itself from such inhuman affiliations and adopt a platform in line with free American Industrialism, and it may then prove to be a factor in the improvement of industrial conditions which are now impaired and prostituted by agencies which it encourages and abets by its sympathetic cooperation if not by open affiliation. It will then be able to stand the search light criticism of all practical men, and its other alleged activities will not be buried in an avalanche of hypocrisy and disloyalty to honest American workmen."

CHILDREN WIN STRIKE

Washington, Sept. 9.--Down in Mobile, Ala., the children are rebelling against industrial conditions and through organization have demonstrated the fact that even infants may become a power. The "newsies" have thrown down the gauntlet to a publisher and in the list have overthrown their opponent.

The little vendors of newspapers went on a strike for a better share of the profits, and conducted the controversy so well that the City Commissioners have been called upon to act as arbiters. The publisher has agreed to pay the boys five cents a week on each subscriber, but the lads want more and are prepared to convince the arbiters that six cents a week on each subscriber is not too much.

The boys are members of a Federal Union and take great pride in their union affiliations.

GIRLS BATTLE FOR UNION SHOP

Washington, Sept. 9.--Sixty girls, employed by Levy & Finkelberg, New York City, showed their determination to maintain the union shop, when an attempt was made to violate union rules in regard to prices, and an intimation was given that the shop would be run on a non-union basis. They immediately went on strike and in three days brought the employers to terms. The union price list will be maintained and the shop will be run under strict union principles.

WHAT OTHERS SAY OF US

Members of Labor Organizations Seldom Solicit Assistance from Charitable Agencies.

Washington, Sept. 9.--The Survey pays labor organizations the following compliment: "Only a small percentage of families whose heads hold membership in labor organizations come within the ken of charitable agencies. There are several reasons for this. The organized worker receives a better wage; therefore he can care for his family better than his less fortunate brother, and he can lay up something for a rainy day. A labor union represents collective ambition. The professional man forges ahead, or tries to at least, single handed. The mechanic, as a rule, can progress only with the other mechanics in the same kind of work. He can only rise as his fellow workers rise. The very bad thing together of persons in the same trade means foresight. It means that these workers realize individually that they must forego some liberties, give up part of their earnings in order to gain more liberty and better earnings in the end. The organized worker has not the 'what's the use?' state of mind. He has certain standards which he desires to live up to. He has certain ideals for himself and his family.

"There is a wholesome pride connected with membership in a labor organization, which leads the organized worker away from ordinary relief agencies. His union stands ready to help him in distress, his help comes as it would from brothers, from next of kin. If it becomes necessary for him to ask for more help when the resources of his organization have been exhausted, he often receives such help from individual members.

"As a matter of fact the labor organization in most cases has a strong hold upon the worker because it means much to him. He is attached to it more than he is to his church, because it takes cognizance of his present needs. With the 'Do It Now', that we parade everywhere has come a 'I Live Now'. The labor union is here to serve that 'Now'."

A TRIBUTE TO LABOR

Washington, Sept. 9.--Governor Francis E. McGovern of Wisconsin has exalted views on the value of labor. He writes: "Labor is the only true alchemy. The laborer alone really transmits base metals into gold by giving value to things before found worthless. Labor on the farm, in the mines and in the forest adds to the sum of raw materials adapted to man's use. Labor in the shop, factory and mill fits products thus wrested from stubborn nature to practical ends and the satisfaction of human wants. The laborer, therefore, is the real creator of wealth; though at times others may be custodians of it, charged with the duty of using it for the preservation of the common good."

IT GOES JUST THE SAME

Washington, Sept. 9.--George Gearing Hiatt, who has been in the United States eighteen months studying industrial conditions in behalf of the Tariff Reform Party in England, declares that while the wages of the American workmen are higher than those of his British brother, he is no better off than the latter. "At the end of the week" he says, "the American has not a cent more in his pocket than the British workman."

ANOTHER WONDERFUL INVESTMENT

Nine Dollars A Year Earns 2851 Per Cent Interest and 1,878 Hours of Leisure for Workmen.

Washington, Sept. 9.—Bakers in Cumberland, Md. organized a union in 1902. Previous to the formation of the union they worked fifteen hours a day and received wages ranging from \$5 to \$11 a week. In the year of their organization they presented demands for a 10 hour work day and got it. Since then they have succeeded so well that they now work 9 hours a day, enjoy four holidays a year, with pay, and receive an average scale of \$2.28 a day, \$256.66 a year more than they did in 1902.

In ten years the dues paid into the union, \$9. a year, will amount to \$90. It will have earned \$2,566.60 an amount sufficient to purchase a comfortable home. In addition it will have secured 18,780 hours or 2 years six months and seven days, which can be spent in taking care of and beautifying the home, and in rest, recreation, physical and mental development.

On an investment of \$9 a year the bakers have received in interest 2,851 per cent, not including the 18,780 hours which they can now use to their own advantage. In 1902 the bakers of Cumberland had only 9 hours a day to sleep, eat, get recreation and devote to study. Through their efforts as union men they have now reversed the order of the day, and have 15 hours for themselves while the employer gets nine.

Organized labor has accomplished wonders. It will accomplish much more in the interest of the toilers when they have been taught the necessity for organization.

IRON WORKERS GAINING

Washington, Sept. 9.—Members of the Architectural Iron Workers' Union, who are on strike in New York, are very optimistic and say the strike will be settled and won soon. The men are on strike for recognition of their union and an increased wage scale. Settlements are being secured daily and the officials of the union say the employers, who are still standing out, will soon be in line.

HIDDEN MISERY

Washington, Sept. 9.—Exhibitions of misery are not good to look at. They might create a spirit of discontent, and cause something to be done to eliminate the cause. The following excerpt from an editorial in the Washington Post aptly explains the motives that prompt many Philanthropies:

"In crude and unsettled conditions of society the vicious and unfortunate wandered upon the highways, palpable evidences of the presence of sin and misery. We manage these things better now, providing places where they may be sequestered from the public gaze. Banished from sight and thought, the world looks much fairer, and there comes a satisfied conviction that everything is much better than it used to be."

The Brewery Workers' Union at Peterboro, Ontario, has been successful in securing an increase in the wage scale of \$1.00 a week. It has also succeeded in reducing the working hours.

People in France Threaten to Revolt if Prices of the Necessaries of Life Are Not Reduced.

Washington, Sept. 9.—The agitation of the women of Brest for cheaper food has spread to over forty towns in northern France and the citizens are now energetically supporting the housewives in their demands for a reduction in the prices of the commodities of life. The situation has become so serious that Jules Pams, the Minister of Agriculture, has been instructed by the Cabinet to investigate the underlying causes of the high prices of food.

At Lille organized labor took an active part in the demonstration. The General Confederation of Labor has taken up the agitation and 6,000 metal workers paraded the streets raising their voices in protest against the high cost of living.

At Douai 2,000 persons marched in procession singing revolutionary hymns and carrying banners bearing the inscription "butter at 30 cents or revolution."

The agitation has started in Paris and energetic demonstrations have been held at Orleans, the capitol of the Department of Loiret.

At St. Quentin serious riots have occurred. The mob has wrecked and pillaged butcher shops, and the situation has become so grave that an urgent request has been sent to the Government for additional troops.

GENERAL STRIKE THREATENED IN ITALY

Carrara, Italy, Sept. 9.—The dispute between the marble quarrymen and their employers still continues. The latter are firm in their assertions that they will not concede the demands of the workmen, and the quarrymen are determined not to recede. A general strike is now threatened which will affect thousands of marble workers.

TROUBLE IN PORTUGAL

Alameda, Portugal, Sept. 9.—Cork cutters and lightermen are on strike and business is paralyzed. Cavalrymen are patrolling the streets and many persons have been injured.

BRITISH WORKERS GAIN INCREASE

London, Eng., Sept. 9.—Under an agreement entered into between the Engineers and Allied Trades Societies and the Engineers' Employers' Association of Birmingham and District, the scale of fitters, turners, and smiths has been increased from \$9.00 to \$9.24 a week, and the scale of the patternmakers from \$9.48 to \$9.73 a week. 10,000 men are affected by the increase.

FOR THE McNAMARA DEFENSE FUND

Washington, Sept. 9.—There was no Labor Day parade in Chicago on Sept. 4. The members of the unions decided to dispense with the parade and send the money usually spent on such demonstrations to the custodians of the McNamara defense fund.

In Bartlesville, Okla. the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners has increased the wage scale from \$3.60 to \$4.00 a day. The increase was secured without a strike.